

DDI- 04246X/1-86



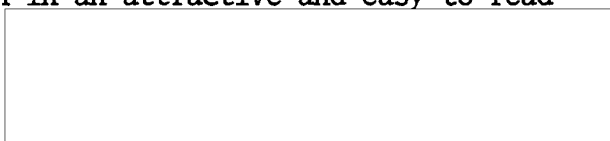
Central Intelligence Agency  
Office of the Deputy Director for Intelligence

11 SEP 1986

NOTE TO: Director of Central Intelligence

1. An interesting and well written article on Soviet science was recently published in Discover magazine. I think you will find it an interesting overview.

2. The article quotes several CIA sponsored unclassified reports and presents multiple source information in an attractive and easy to read style.



Richard J. Kerr  
Deputy Director for Intelligence

Attachment

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**OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC AND WEAPONS RESEARCH**

Directorate of Intelligence *DDI- 04242-86*  
Central Intelligence Agency

10 OCT 1986

NOTE TO: Deputy Director for Intelligence

1. A copy of the Discover magazine article on Soviet science is attached for forwarding to the DCI. I discussed this briefly with you last week.

2. A cover memo lists some noteworthy aspects of the article - quotes from unclassified CIA sponsored reports, good combination of information from multiple sources, and attractive presentation style.

D/SWR

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DDI- 042461/2-86

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Deputy Director for Intelligence

FROM :   
Director of Scientific and Weapons Research

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SUBJECT : "Soviet Science: How Good Is It?"; an Article  
in Discover Magazine

1. Action. None. This memorandum is for your information only.

2. I think you will find the attached article on Soviet science quite interesting. It appeared in the August 1986 issue of Discover magazine, published by Time, Inc.

3. While I do not endorse all of the substantive points in the article I consider it well written with several noteworthy aspects itemized below. The article quotes extensively from several unclassified intelligence products which were prepared primarily by the CIA or under our sponsorship:

- Reports of the Foreign Applied Sciences Assessment Center (FASAC), operated since 1981 under an OSWR contract.
- The technology transfer "White Paper" entitled "Soviet Acquisition of Militarily Significant Western Technology" prepared by TTAC/OSWR in 1985.
- The unclassified version of NIE 11-7-85, "The Future of Soviet Science", drafted by OSWR and sponsored by the NIO/S&T.

4. The writing style is both attractive and keeps one's attention, combining extremely well:

- Information from unclassified intelligence products.
- Knowledge and quotes of respected US "Sovietologists".
- Knowledge and quotes of US scientists who have visited or worked in the Soviet Union.

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SUBJECT: "Soviet Science: How Good Is It?"; an Article  
in Discover Magazine

- Knowledge and quotes of Soviet emigre scientists in the United States, Israel, and Western Europe.
- Quotes and anecdotes to reinforce the main points of the article.
- And history of the Soviet Union and Soviet science.

5. The presentation style also is very appealing, using a combination of:

- Cartoons; pictures of past, present, and emigre Soviet scientists; pictures of Soviet equipment and laboratories.
- Marginal quotes (and pictures of persons being quoted) which make a number of important points in themselves.
- Long quotes, primarily from Soviet emigre scientists, which help "tell the story".

6. Overall, I consider this to be a worthwhile addition to the literature on Soviet science. It is, however, primarily historical, with little explicit discussion of the future of Soviet science. The tone of the article is largely negative, leading the average reader to infer that things have generally been bad, are bad, and will continue to be bad, so that there is nothing to be concerned about. But we need to keep in mind that the Soviets are quite capable of making progress in selected areas where they make a determined effort, e.g. space and lasers. Likewise, even if Soviet scientific research now lags and were to continue to lag that of the United States by five to ten years, this has not and will not lead to inferior weapons systems, for all the well known reasons: technology transfer, more rapid Soviet introduction of new technology into weapons systems, less complex systems design, etc.

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SUBJECT: "Soviet Science: How Good Is It?"; an Article in Discover magazine

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OSWR/STD, [redacted] (9 Sep 86)

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